

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-36 are active and find support in the original claims and specification. Specific support in the original claims and specification is found as follows: claim 14 (claims 1-2 and 6, page 11, line 31-page 12, line 17), claims 15-18 (page 11, first paragraph), claims 19-21 (page 11, lines 15-35), claims 22-25 (page 12, line 19 *ff.*), claim 26 (page 13, line 20 *ff.*), claim 27 (claims 1-2 and 6, page 11, line 31-page 12, line 17), claim 28 (page 13, line 20 *ff.*), claims 29-33 (page 12, line 19 *ff.*), claim 34 (page 7, line 6), and claims 35-36 (sections bridging pages 6-7 and 7-8). No new matter has been introduced. Favorable consideration of this amendment and allowance of this application are now respectfully requested.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §102

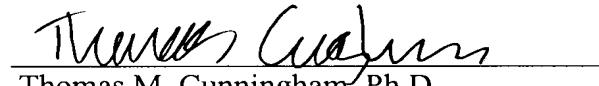
Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Maekawa, et al., JP 08-165208 (Derwent Basic Abstract, English). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims. It would not apply to the new claims because Maekawa does not disclose or recognize the importance of selecting hydrophobic particles having an aspect ratio greater than 1. Moreover, Maekawa relies on the “operation of a silver system inorganic antimicrobial agent” (abstract), but such an agent is not required by the invention in which water required for mold growth is removed by the lotus effect. Claim 34 specifically excludes fungicides. Furthermore, the prior art, which is directed to TiO<sub>2</sub> particles that provide “photocatalytic action of titanium oxide” (abstract), does not contemplate the hydrophobic particles required by dependent claims 23-25 and 31-33 and 35. Accordingly, this rejection would not apply to the new claims.

Conclusion

This application presents allowable subject matter and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass it to issue. The Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned should a further discussion of the issues or claims be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

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